



Aruba sweeps the Police Corp Kingdom Games for 2006

Established in 1981 as a friendly rivalry between the softball teams of the police of Aruba and Curaçao, the Kingdom games has grown to become Kingdom *plus* with the additional participation of Surinam ten years ago, as it is technically no longer a part of the Dutch Kingdom. Taking part in a week of athletic competition with their comrades and colleagues are the police teams of Holland, Curaçao, Aruba, Saint Maarten, Bonaire, Suriname, and for the first time this year, the Coast Guard team of Aruba and Curaçao.

This past week Aruba was host to over 300 visiting police personnel, as this year is the twentieth anniversary of an independent Aruban police force. It was only fitting that for this year, Aruba took the lion's share of trophies for the various activities. Head Commissioner of Police Rolando "Ronny" Bernadina expressed the belief that playing on their home ground for this commemorative year did additionally motivate the teams, "along with fantastic support from the community in general, coming out to cheer them on at a number of the events."

During an awards party held at the POVA club, Frank Zandaam of the Aruban Law Enforcement hosted the presentation of the trophies to the winning teams. Aruba took first place trophies in softball, basketball, billiards, and soccer, and second place in target shooting after the Coast Guard team that won first place. Curaçao finished second after a full day of soccer matches on Friday.

Taking second place in softball was the team from Bonaire, which also came in first in the domino competition that had been held during a family day at De Palm Island on Thursday. Second place in basketball went to Suriname, and the team from Saint Maarten won first place in dominos, but came in second to Aruba in billiards. Friday evening's volleyball results were yet to be announced because of technical difficulties with the stadium lights.

The Friday evening bash had special meaning for the Aruban teams, as they were called up repeatedly to accept their trophies. The annual Police Corp Kingdom Games is a time for the police to not only participate in friendly competition, but compare notes professionally in an atmosphere of friendship and camaraderie. THE NEWS offers congratulations and a pat on the back to the Aruban teams for their excellent performance!